

THE PROPOSED JUNCTION OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

We can scarcely believe that the advertisement which has been issued by the Committee of the Archaeological Institute, offering what they call "reasonable encouragement" to the members of the Association to join their body, can be meant as a serious response to the well-intentioned and very praiseworthy resolution passed at the Manchester meeting of the Archaeological Association, recommending the Council to take steps to promote a junction of the two bodies: The object desired by this resolution, moved by the President of the Chesham Society, and seconded by, we believe, a member of the Archaeological Institute, the Bishop of Manchester being in the chair, is sufficiently important to the cause of archaeology to call for some earnest endeavour on the part of the Council of the Institute to meet it, and to enlist in its favor every unprejudiced member of that body, and every earnest friend to antiquarian researches and archaeological knowledge. The advertisement in question must surely have been issued under some misapprehension, and should be at once repudiated by the members of the Institute.

Books.

Architectural Illustrations of Warrington Church, Northamptonshire. By Mr. W. CAVELER, Architect. London and Oxford: John H. Parker. 1850.

WARRINGTON CHURCH dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is in the northern part of the county, about three miles from Oundle. It is early English in style—approaching the Geometrical. The earliest part, which is on the south side (not the north, as stated in the work before us), is ascribed by Mr. Caveler to 1220, and the latest part to 1280. The nave measures on the plan 47 feet in width, and 70 feet in length, or one-and-a-half times the width; the chancel is 41 feet 6 inches by 19 feet.

Mr. Caveler's volume, which ranges in size and manner with the illustrations of churches published under the direction of the Oxford Architectural Society, gives plan, elevation, sections, and every detail drawn with great care and clearness. The church is remarkable in having a ceiling entirely of wood in imitation of a stone vault. The book will be found very useful.

Report of the General Board of Health on the Epidemic Cholera of 1848 and 1849. W. Clowes and Sons, for H.M.'s Stationery-office. 1850.

This is a handy little blue book of the new and reformed order, and not only without the repulsive aspect of the huge folios of old, but full of matter valuable and interesting to all. To speak compendiously of its contents, it presents a digest of all that is known of the warnings of cholera, the previous increasing prevalence of epidemic diseases, the return of cholera to the same countries, towns, and even houses, the sameness of the haunts of fever and cholera, their greater prevalence near the banks of rivers, the operation of local influences on strong and healthy subjects, the morbid effects of crowding, filth, offensive manufactures, sewers, and piggeries, putrescent mud and ditches, dampness, water polluted by town drainage, graveyards, improper food, intemperance, fatigue, and other notorious causes.

The power of preventive measures, especially of a sanitary description, to destroy the predisposition to cholera, has been enlarged on and is most striking and remarkable.

"We submit," say the reporters (Lord Ashley, Mr. E. Chadwick, and Mr. Southwood Smith), "that the late experience has added to our previous knowledge of the efficiency of sanitary arrangements in checking the extension of this formidable disease. For the evidences which we have now detailed show,—that where material improvements have been made in the condition of the dwellings of the labouring classes, there has been an entire exemption from the disease; and that where minor improvements have been introduced, the attacks have been less severe and less extensive, and the mortality comparatively slight."

Even the simple process of lime-washing has been found to be far more effectual than

those recommending it had any conception of—not only in the prevention or suppression of cholera, but of fever and disease in general,—a fact not easily explained, it may be, although we know that white and black surfaces absorb heat and light and smelling vapours very differently. Black clothes, for instance, even though new and clean, seem to have a peculiar capacity for absorbing noxious vapours, which will hang about them much more than about light-coloured vestments. We would, therefore be inclined, half-seriously, to recommend the casting off of all lugubrious or sad-coloured garments, should the enemy again appear. But now is the time for the establishment of the most effectual of all preventive measures,—namely, sanitary reform in general. The reporters urge the "incomparably greater efficacy of measures of prevention than of those that are merely palliative or curative;" and finally they "submit that it is, in the mean time, essential to the protection of the public life and health that adequate legislative powers should be given for dealing effectually with those extraordinary and formidable states of disease, the occasional occurrence of which must be expected, until these sanitary works have been completed and have been introduced into all the towns of the kingdom."

Miscellaneous.

SIGHTS AND SONSERY.—The opening scene for the excellent drama at the Haymarket Theatre, "Girald," is very effective, and entitles the painter to credit.—At the Princess's Theatre, which opens on Saturday, particular attention, we understand, is to be paid to scenery and costume.—Considerable alterations are being made in *Her Majesty's Theatre*, preparatory to opening for popular concerts.—The Panorama of the Nile is about to be removed into the provinces. Those who have not seen it should go at once.—A second visit to Mr. Allon's panorama of *The Dardanellas, Constantinople, &c.*, has done more than establish the high opinion of it we have already expressed.—In spite of all the novelties, the Colosseum, with its brilliant picture of Paris, its sculpture gallery, conservatories, &c., still stands one of the great "sights" of London.

A NEW "SYSTEM OF AERIAL NAVIGATION."—An ingenious invention of a M. Petin is described and illustrated in the Parisian *L'Illustration*, from which it has been translated into the columns of our own *Illustrated News*. In the brief compass of a paragraph, which is all we can afford at present to the building of ships in the air, it will be difficult to explain clearly the whole principle and mechanism of this new "system;" but let our readers keep in view what we lately said as to surplus weight as a point of resistance to working power as is the flight of birds, for in that we have something like the germ of this idea, only it is in a manner duplicated and combined with that modification of the same principle by which fishes rise and sink and swim in water. "No one," says the writer in *L'Illustration*, "has recognised, or, at least, set out with this principle, that bodies, animate or inanimate, never move but by the combination of the action of the heavy body with the resistance of the surrounding medium. Such is the law which has served M. Petin for his starting-point." This is the very starting-point to which we have repeatedly called attention ourselves, however, while noticing past endeavours to acquire dominion over the air. "Behold, then, in three words, the whole system of M. Petin—the lever, the fulcrum, and the inclined plane. The fulcrum is everywhere in nature—it is upon the earth for men and terrestrial animals; it is in the water for fishes; and, finally, it is in the air for birds; and the Creator, in his admirable foresight, has given to each animal the form best adapted to the fulcrum which must aid it in moving." M. Petin works out his principle thus, however, and not exactly like birds in the air as alleged. He has four balloons in a series connected with a framework taking fore and aft like a ship with its sails. He uses both the weight of ballast and the levity of gas. In rising by the balloon inflation, rather as a fish in water than a bird in air, he opposes to

the tendency to rise a system of parachutes resisting that tendency, and so manages these as to cause the machine to ascend in an inclined plane, and thus make progressive motion. To decrease the very same principle is brought to bear by allowing gas to escape: another series of parachutes opposes the downward tendency, and is so managed by unequal pressure as to send the machine forward down an inclined plane. A system of guiding helices worked by hand or other power is also made to sweep into the air in horizontal and progressive motion. Here, perhaps, is his weakest point: but we cannot afford space for further explanation.

PROTECTION OF NEW INVENTIONS FROM PIRACY.—"A Poor Inventor" writes us, very dependently, on the disappointment of the promise of protection made by the International Exhibition Commissioners to the many poor men, such as him, who were buoyed up by the hope, induced by that promise, that to them and their families 1851 would indeed be a year of jubilee and rejoicing. The Exhibition hall was to be a fair field for them, and without favour to those who "feed and fatten on the poor man's brains." But thanks to a Commons' House blind to the crying evils of an expensive patent law for the protection of these very pirates, who under its protecting flag, are free to plunder these poor inventors whom a patent law ought to protect,—the only industry connected with such inventions that is likely to be countenanced and to prosper in the great exhibition of industry, if the commissioners do not use further and more strenuous exertions to fulfil their promise, is the senseless vigilance of a horde of inventive *ex-silencers d'industrie*, whose ruling compassions under the patent law are virtually and really smothering in their birth the hopeless fruits of the poor man's ingenuity, and suppressing ultimately that very invention which a patent law, worthy of common sense, should cherish and extend. An instance of another sort of evil in some respects, though in others of a similar kind, connected with the patent law, and the often ruinous, or even altogether impracticable expense, of law, of vindicating patent rights, has just been brought under notice by a correspondent of a contemporary, who adduces it as "another instance of the unfortunate position of inventors, and that even the promised protection of a patent can scarcely insure them either praise or profit for their ingenuity." The instance alluded to is that of the patent of a poor man, now dead, for ventilating by steam: his family having been repeatedly, it is said, and with entire impunity, plundered, by infringements of their patent. It is even alleged that the ventilation of the Courts of Exchequer and Common Pleas at Westminster is about to be effected under an infringement of that patent, which was taken out by the late Mr. James Grant on 7th May, 1844. It is to be hoped that a searching, thorough, and fundamental revolution in the patent law will be speedily accomplished, and that the Industrial Commission will feel themselves in honour bound to use every endeavour, by renewed application to the Commons, to obtain the protection promised to poor inventors.

THE GRANITE QUARRY AT KIRKMAURREE.—The granite blocks and paving stones for the docks and quays of Liverpool are taken from a vast quarry at Kirkmaurree, near Blackerag, in Galloway. The quarry was opened about twenty years ago. The working of the quarry, in 1854, cost nearly 15,000*l.* including rent and tonnage of vessels, &c. It is wrought in three breasts about 30 feet high each, the one above and behind the other. At one time powder was much employed in this work, but except in ripping up corners, has been for some time entirely given up. Drills, wedges, crowbars, sledge-hammers, and cranes are now principally used in quarrying even the largest masses; and it is truly astonishing to see with what facility even mountains can be removed by handiwork. In the quarry the rocks are stratified. The strata are perpendicular, and vary in thickness from 9 inches to 3 feet. When a mass is to be separated, wedges are introduced between the strata, and are driven down with sledge-hammers, and a separation is effected. A large crowbar, well-manned, is then applied, to throw down the mass to the bottom of the